

Governor Jim Doyle  
Maj. Gen. Albert Wilkening  
The Adjutant General

Johnnie L. Smith  
Administrator

Vol. 13, Issue No. 6 Nov./Dec. 2004



# WEM Digest

Issues and Events for Wisconsin's Emergency Management

## Nuclear plant drill tests emergency plans

By Lori Getter  
WEM Public Information Officer

State and local emergency officials were tested recently on their abilities to protect the public during an exercise with the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant on December 7, 2004.

Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant is located along Lake Michigan. As part of the biennial exercise, the State of Wisconsin, and Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties activated their emergency operations centers. In addition, a Joint Public Information Center was opened in Green Bay to handle media communications.

Functions evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency included activating state and county emergency operations centers, coordinating actions between local and state governments, sampling and identifying radiation in contaminated areas, evacuating contaminated areas, opening reception centers and monitoring citizens for radiation exposure and decontamination if necessary.

Over all, evaluators were pleased with the coordination between the plant, state and county emergency officials. This is the last exercise in the State of Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center (see related story).

This was the second nuclear power plant exercise the state of Wisconsin has been involved with



**Federal evaluators take notes as they critique the State of Wisconsin's participation in the nuclear power plant exercise.** Photo by Larry Sommers

this year. In June, the state participated in the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant exercise

with Pierce County and the State of Minnesota.

## Major renovations to State EOC

Beginning in early 2005, the state of Wisconsin Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will undergo a major facelift.

The state has received a federal grant to remodel the current EOC and upgrade computers and other electronics equipment. The current EOC was built in the early 1990's and has been activated during numerous emergencies including the Weyauwega train derailment, 9-11 terrorist attack, Y2K and various tornadoes and storms.

In recent years, it has been evident that additional space and equipment is needed as the state continues to expand the use of the EOC.



**Ron Kasperski helped move equipment to a temporary alternate EOC. The remodeling is expected to be completed in the spring of 2005.** Photo by Larry Sommers

# New year means new challenges

As I continue to travel around the state and the region, meeting with emergency responders, I am amazed by how much work is done at the state and local levels. For someone with a limited background in emergency management just a few short months ago, I am impressed by the level of professionalism and dedication shown by those of you who are working daily to protect our state and our citizens from harm.

As we reflect on 2004, natural disasters once again made headlines across the state. From the early spring flooding in Antigo and Marinette to the 34 tornadoes that touched down in 2004, emergency managers worked hard during the response and recovery of these emergencies.

After major flooding and tornadoes, Governor Doyle was successful in obtaining federal disaster relief for 44 Wisconsin counties. More than 8,000 disaster victims applied for federal aid with \$16.5 million in grants and low interest loans distributed to eligible applicants. In addition, over 390 communities also applied for



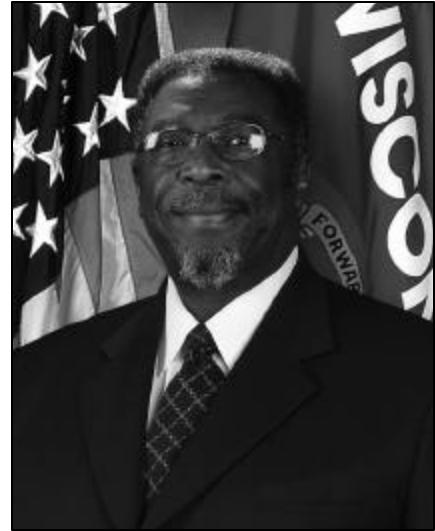
***WEM Administrator Johnnie Smith presents a certificate to Douglas County Emergency Management Director Keith Kesler***

federal aid to help repair storm damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges. As of December 1, nearly \$10 million in federal disaster aid has been obligated to those local governments.

Several Wisconsin Emergency Management staff also helped with the recovery efforts from the hurricanes that struck down south. Margie Weigle and Cregg Reuter worked in Florida while Lois Ristow, Dale Seidel and Barron County Emergency Management Director Randy Books provided assistance in Alabama. Their experiences from working in the hurricane-ravaged areas will be invaluable as we continue updating our emergency plans in Wisconsin.

Those plans include continuing work on homeland security planning, working with state agencies to update the Continuity of Operations (COOP)/ Continuity of Government (COG), updating our own Strategic Plan, updating our Emergency Operations Center (EOC), etc. Clearly, while much has been done to make Wisconsin safe, there still is much to be accomplished.

We must all be involved with the strategic planning process as we seek to determine what our threats and risks are in the state, what preventive measures we need to take to safeguard those infrastructures, and what more we need to do to make sure our first responders are trained and equipped to respond to the unthinkable. In addition, we must continue to work cooperatively with our fiscal partner, the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA), to ensure that we continue to receive federal funds to help us accomplish our goals.



**Johnnie L. Smith  
WEM Administrator**

As we prepare to enter into the holiday season, each of you, in reflecting back over what you have achieved during 2004, have much to be proud of. Certainly, I am very proud and honored to be part of an agency that consistently adheres to such high work standards. I know 2005 will be a busy year; also, I know that each of you stand ready to respond to any emergencies that may strike our state. But during this holiday season, take a moment and reflect on how much has been accomplished.

Please accept my appreciation and commendation for all of the great work that you do and my sincere wishes for a Happy & Safe Holiday Season.

***WEM Digest***  
is published bi-monthly by  
**Wisconsin Emergency  
Management**  
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# State takes hit on homeland security grants

By Mike Kunesch  
Office of Justice Assistance

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released the Grant Program Guidance for 2005 and there are a few surprises in it that include a decrease in funding that was more than we had hoped for.

The funding, as shown in the chart, is decreased in every program. This is just slightly more in total, than we received for the Homeland Security Program alone in 2004 and less than the 2003.

We had expected some reductions but had hoped for more stability in some of the programs. The reason for the decreases varies. In some programs the federal allocation was cut and in others the formula and criteria were changed.

The application for 2005 will also include two more programs that were not included in the program last year and will be in this year's application. They are the Emergency Management Performance Grant and Metropolitan Medical Response System in the counts shown in the second table.

This is consistent with the DHS policy of "one stop shop" for grant programs to eliminate the need for multiple agencies to file multiple

OJA and Wisconsin Emergency Management are working together to compile the information needed to complete the application and intend to

Department of Health and Human Services Center of Disease Control Prevention Bioterrorism Cooperative Agreement and the

Program	2005	2004	Decrease
State Homeland Security Program	\$19,787,345	\$31,437,000	\$11,649,655
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$6,325,872	\$10,177,999	\$3,852,127
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention	\$6,325,872	\$9,329,000	\$3,003,128
Citizen Corps	\$251,000	\$653,000	\$402,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,690,089</b>	<b>\$51,596,999</b>	<b>\$18,906,910</b>

applications to receive grants from the federal government.

The timeline for the 2005 program requires that Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) file the application no later than January 16, 2005 and that the Office of Domestic Preparedness respond within 15 days of the receipt of the application. After the response and approval, the process of the formal award will take approximately an additional 2 to 4 weeks. This brings the award to the state in mid February to early March. There are also several narratives and budgets that have to be provided with the application.

apply before the deadline. The grant guidance discusses the integration of all programs and encourages regional preparedness efforts.

In addition, there are requirements that provide for the coordination of these programs with the other federal programs such as the U.S.

Health Resources and Services Administration National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program.

There is also the requirement that eight national initiatives are complied with. We will be providing more information on the grants in the future.

Program	2005
Emergency Management Performance Grant	\$3,236,049
Metropolitan Medical Response System	\$455,184



*A full-scale terrorism exercise was held October 28, 2004 in Green Bay. The scenario involved an explosive device going off on a railcar carrying hazardous materials near an elementary school.*

*Photo by Cullen Peltier*

# State Citizen Corps Council ready to work

*By Michael Jordan  
Office of Justice Assistance*

Promoting volunteerism, preparedness and prevention in Wisconsin are the main goals of the State of Wisconsin Citizen's Corps Council. The State Council, appointed by Governor Doyle, will hold its first meeting January 19, 2005 in Madison.

The 19 member panel is led by Racine County Executive Bill McReynolds. Office of Justice Assistance is the lead state agency working with the council. Council members represent law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management, and volunteer organizations. It has been tasked with setting program priorities and making recommendations for the allocation of federal Citizen Corps funds. The Council will also advise the Governor and Legislature on policy

and legislation related to the Citizen Corps mission.

Citizen Corps is designed to help create opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prevent, prepare and respond to emergencies at all levels. The state has received federal grants through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help implement some of these programs and trainings.

Some of the existing programs that may be eligible for funding include: Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training, Neighborhood Watch Program, Wisconsin Terrorism Awareness & Prevention Program (WisTAP) and Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth (READY).



***Governor Doyle announced the creation of a state Citizen Corps Council in September.***

Both the WisTAP and READY programs are new.

In addition, OJA is developing the Wisconsin Citizen Corps/Crime Prevention Web site which should be operational in early 2005. For further information, contact Michael Jordan at OJA at 608-261-7529 or e-mail at [michael.jordan@oja.state.wi.us](mailto:michael.jordan@oja.state.wi.us).

## Critical infrastructure group tests plans

*By Rick Hetchler  
Milwaukee County Emergency Management*

Employees of We-Energies watched in bewilderment as their computer screens showed cascading power outages in most of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin as terrorists successfully hit a major power grid. In addition, car bombs explode at substations and at waterworks facilities in Milwaukee.

That was the scenario that faced the participants at a tabletop exercise held by Milwaukee County's Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) group. The group meets monthly to discuss important issues that affect providers of services such as water, electric, natural gas, and telephones.

While the terrorist scenario was not the main focus of the exercise, it did add an extra element of concern to the exercise. Not only did the participants have to deal with the power being down and no water for 14 municipalities in southeastern Wisconsin, but they also had to treat the incident as a crime scene.

"It didn't dawn on me until just now that I wouldn't be able to get back into my facility until law enforcement officers said it was okay to re-enter," said one participant. "Even then we realized that we would have to work together so that they could gather evidence while we worked on restoring water. It was really an eye-opener."

## Upcoming Events

**2005 Governor's  
Conference on Emergency  
Management  
Lake Geneva  
April 5-6, 2005**

**Wisconsin's Tornado and  
Severe Weather  
Awareness Week  
April 18-22, 2005**

**Wisconsin NOAA Weather  
Radio Awareness Day  
May 18, 2005**

**Wisconsin Heat  
Awareness Day  
June 16, 2005**

# Crews deal with explosion/nerve gas in drill

More than 100 emergency responders from the Ozaukee County area were put to the test in a full-scale terrorism exercise involving the release of nerve gas.

The scenario involved a terrorist attack in which a car bomb explodes and detonates a cylinder of nerve gas near the Mequon Public Safety Building.

To make the exercise seem more realistic, victims were moulaged to look like they had burns and wounds as a result of

the explosion and release of the nerve agent. Several local and regional emergency response agencies participated in the terrorism exercise. Emergency medical technicians, paramedics and firefighters from Mequon, Thiensville and Grafton along with officials from Cedarburg and Ozaukee County Emergency Management participated.

In addition, the Milwaukee County Regional HazMat Team also took part in exercise.



**Emergency crews from Ozaukee County respond to the release of deadly nerve gas as part of a full-scale exercise held in Mequon in October.** Photo by Ozaukee County Emergency Management



## Global Help

**A satellite reception center is installed on the roof of the Department Health and Family Services (DHFS) in Madison. The equipment was purchased with federal bioterrorism grants and will allow DHFS to downlink countless programs from partner health and public service organizations located throughout the world.** Photo by Paul Wittkamp

## Response classes offered in 2005

The University of Wisconsin–Green Bay is gearing up to offer additional emergency management courses during the 2005 spring and summer semesters.

The UW–Green Bay has developed the first emergency management certificate program for college graduate and undergraduate credit in the state of Wisconsin. This unique program is currently taking registrations for the spring course, **“Strategic Emergency Preparedness, Planning, and Implementation.”**

Students will do a risk assessment, prepare or update emergency plans and gain many other valuable insights in the planning and mitigation of emergencies.

**“Principles and Practice of Disaster Response Operations and Management”** will be offered during the summer. Various problems associated with response operations will be identified such as: inadequate preparedness measures, safety and site security, communications, coordination and record keeping. This is a course that will combine book learning and extensive out in the field experiences.

For more information or an application, contact: Kassie Van Remortel, (902) 465-2468 or (800) 892-2118 or e-mail at: [vanremok@uwgb.edu](mailto:vanremok@uwgb.edu) or register on-line: [www.uwgb.edu/em](http://www.uwgb.edu/em).

# WEMA looks ahead to 2005

*By Cullen Peltier*  
WEMA President

With 2004 coming to end, we should all take a moment to look back and reflect on what our programs have accomplished over the past year. We also need to look forward to 2005 to see how we can have an even greater impact on our community's all-hazards preparedness efforts.

This year, we took some positive steps toward making Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) a strong and productive organization. We held an excellent annual meeting with a slate of speakers that were both dynamic and informative. I am certain that the attendees were able to take some of the lessons learned from our speakers and implement them into their programs.

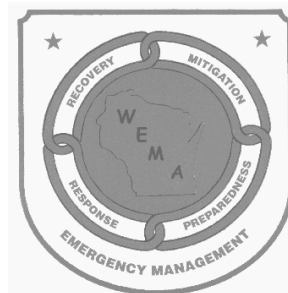
We continue to work closely with Wisconsin Counties Association to educate our elected officials about

the role of emergency management. In addition, WEMA has been active in lobbying for the increase in Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding.

WEMA also now has an excellent website. If you haven't been on the site yet, the web address is [www.wema.us](http://www.wema.us).

Another project was developing public service announcements for Wisconsin's Preparedness Month in September. One of the announcements is generic and can be used at anytime. It is available by downloading it off the WEMA website. In addition, a media advisory is available to use to help spread your message.

With the "kudos" behind us, we can now look forward to our initiatives for 2005. In the next year we would like to continue to develop the WEMA website, assist



our membership with their outreach and education requirements, continue to work with Office of Justice Assistance on issues surrounding the Homeland Security Grants, and increase our participation in the legislative arena.

Additionally, we need to work on becoming more involved with our partner associations at the state and federal level. Above all, we need to work on increasing our membership.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank our officers and board members for their assistance over the past year and I hope everyone has a safe and productive 2005.

## SARS outbreak tests responders

*By Tanna McKeon*  
Green County Emergency Management

Emergency responders and health officials in Green County practiced responding to a biological terrorist attack during an exercise on October 26, 2004.

The scenario involved an outbreak of SARS in Green County, which officials believed may have been intentionally spread at a community festival. Officials quickly organized a mass vaccination clinic to provide flu vaccination to the public so that patients presented with flu like symptoms could be ruled out as having the flu, and expediting a diagnosis of SARS.

To make this mass vaccination clinic as "real" as possible, health officials held an actual flu shot clinic. During the planning phase of the exercise, local health officials anticipated providing over 1,000 flu shots but due to the unexpected vaccine shortage this fall, health officials only provided vaccine to the at-risk priority groups so a total of 250 shots were provided during the three hour exercise.

Even though the numbers were lower than expected in the exercise, all the groups involved felt the SARS exercise was successful.



**Officials help a SARS victim during the bioterrorism exercise held in Green County in**

**October.** Photo by Green County Emergency Management

# State accepting hazard mitigation applications

*By Roxanne Gray  
WEM Hazard Mitigation Officer*

Approximately \$255 million will be available nationwide for competitive grants under the 2005 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program.

The PDM Program provides funding to states, tribes, communities, colleges and universities for pre-disaster mitigation planning and implementation of cost-effective mitigation projects that primarily address natural hazards.

State and local governments, as well as federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply for mitigation grant funds. The grants are administered through Wisconsin Emergency Management and are 75%

federally funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with a 25% local match. Small, impoverished communities may have up to 90% federal cost-share for all hazard mitigation planning grants and project grants. The local match can be from contributions, cash and in-kind services or other non-federal sources. Planning and Project Grant funds are capped at \$3 million federal share per project.

Applicants must have a FEMA-approved All Hazards Mitigation Plan to be eligible to receive project grant funding under the PDM Program. The FEMA-approved All Hazards Mitigation Plan will be required by the date of selection for awards as a condition of receiving grants.

The date of selection has been determined to be **May 1, 2005**. Those that do not have a plan are encouraged to apply for a planning grant for the development of an all hazards mitigation plan. Those applications that meet all of the PDM-C requirements will become part of the State's application which is due to FEMA by March 14, 2005.

Local governments, tribal organizations and public universities or colleges interested in applying for a PDM-C grant should contact WEM at 608-242-3211 as soon as possible. Additional information regarding the PDM-C Program can also be found on the FEMA web site at <http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm>

## Regional News

Speedy recovery to **Eau Claire County Emergency Management Director Hal Swanstrom** who recently underwent gall bladder surgery.



**WEM Bureau Director Rob Rude presents a certificate of appreciation to WEM East Central Region Program Assistant Pat Bernhardt. Pat accepted another state position in October. We'll miss you!**

**Wisconsin Emergency Management** took First Place for the WEM Digest and Honorable Mention for the WEM Annual Report at the International Association of Emergency Managers conference in November. In addition, **Dodge County Emergency Management Deputy Director Jennifer Warmke** took Second Place for her "Sam, the Disaster Horse" coloring books. Good Job!

**Jim Schmidt** has been hired as a WEM project coordinator to help provide Incident Command System courses in Wisconsin. Welcome!

Best wishes to **Jessie McGowan** and **Dana Gregory** who have left WEM recently.



## Best Wishes Dale!

**Wisconsin Emergency Management Budget and Policy Analyst Dale Seidel has retired. Dale has been with the State of Wisconsin since 1973 and has been with WEM since August 1990. Good luck on your retirement!**





## **Good Job!**

*Wisconsin Emergency Management Response and Recovery Bureau  
Director Rob Rude presents an award to WEM Northeast Region  
Program Assistant Marlene Schaetzl for her 30 years of service with  
the State of Wisconsin. Congratulations Marlene!!!*

The staff of  
Wisconsin Emergency  
Management  
would like to wish  
you and your family  
a safe and joyous  
holiday season.

In observance of the  
holidays, WEM offices  
will be closed  
December 24 & 25  
and  
December 31 &  
January 1

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